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week 1

Week 1

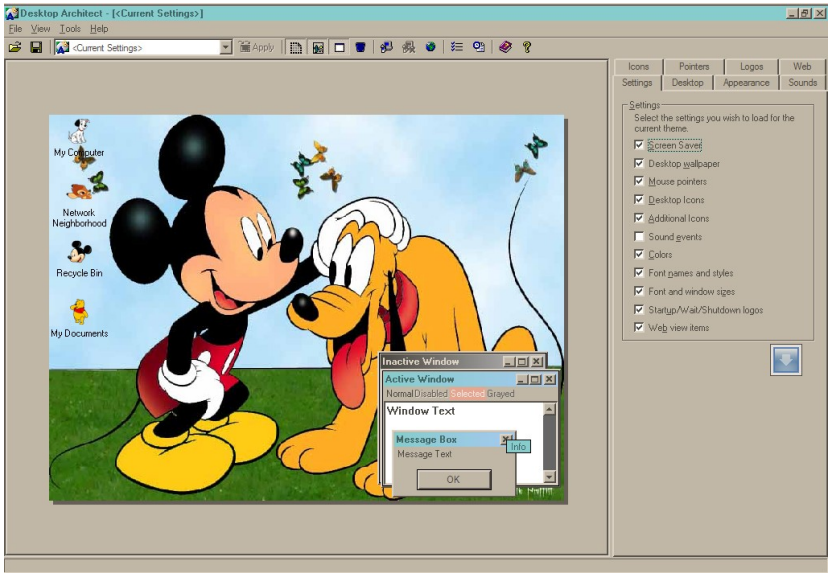
Lesson 1 and assignment

How to make your own themes

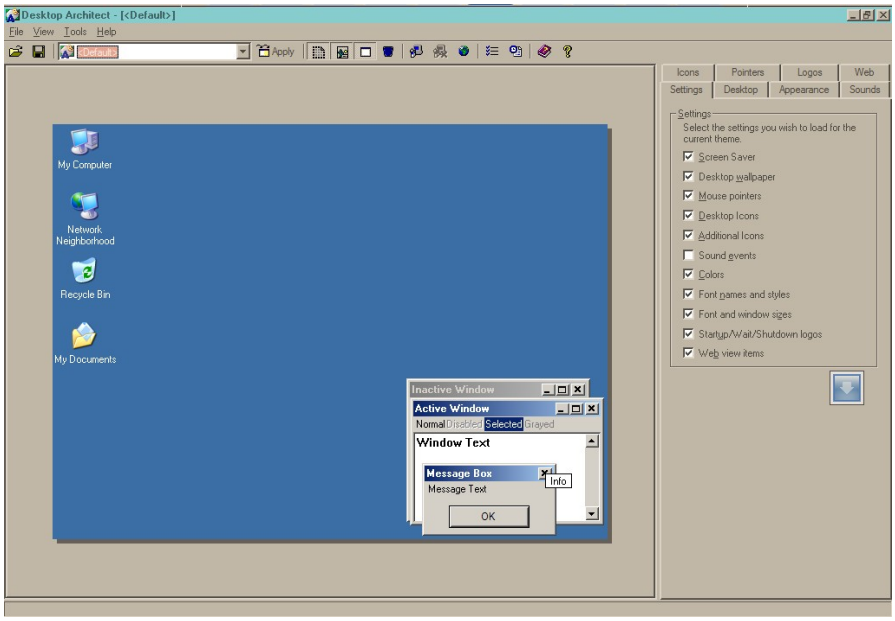
Using Desktop Architect

Before you begin this course you must download Desktop Architect which is Freeware. You can download Desktop Architect from this website at: http://www.themeworld.com/reviews/da211.html Also, make a new folder on your desktop, call it My Theme; you will be using this folder thru the whole course. In your folder you need: wallpaper, icon folder, cursor folder, and copyright information. (Copyright information must include: name of art, creator, and website.) Use note pad or any other text editor for copyright information.

Once you download Desktop Architect and have installed it, open the program up and you should see:

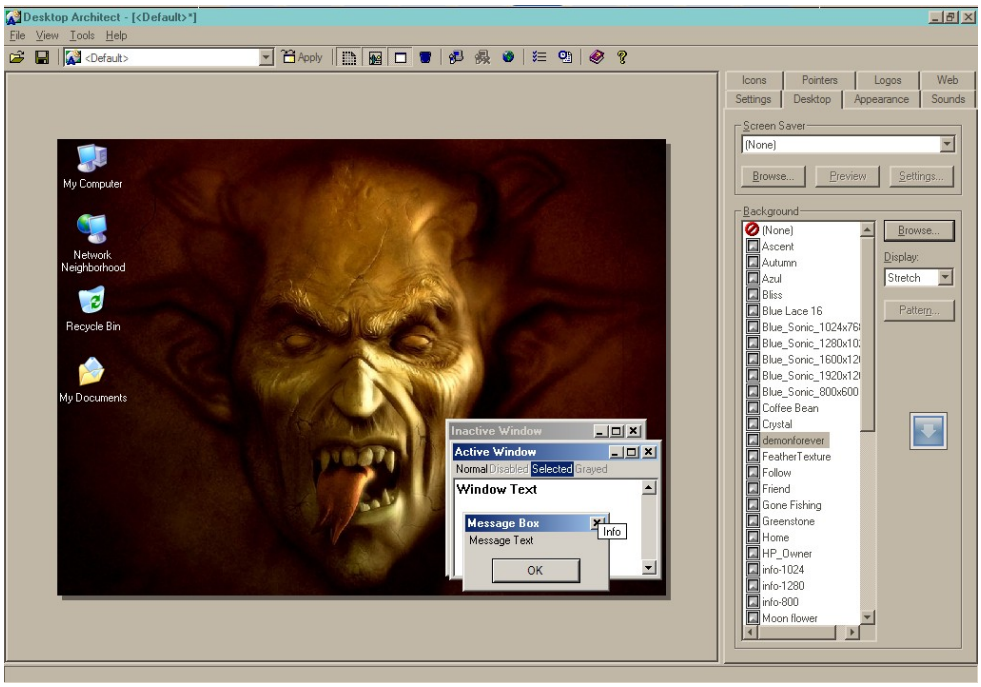


Your current theme will show, now go up to the bar that says current settings, set this to default, this gives you a clean screen to start off with. Now you should have this:

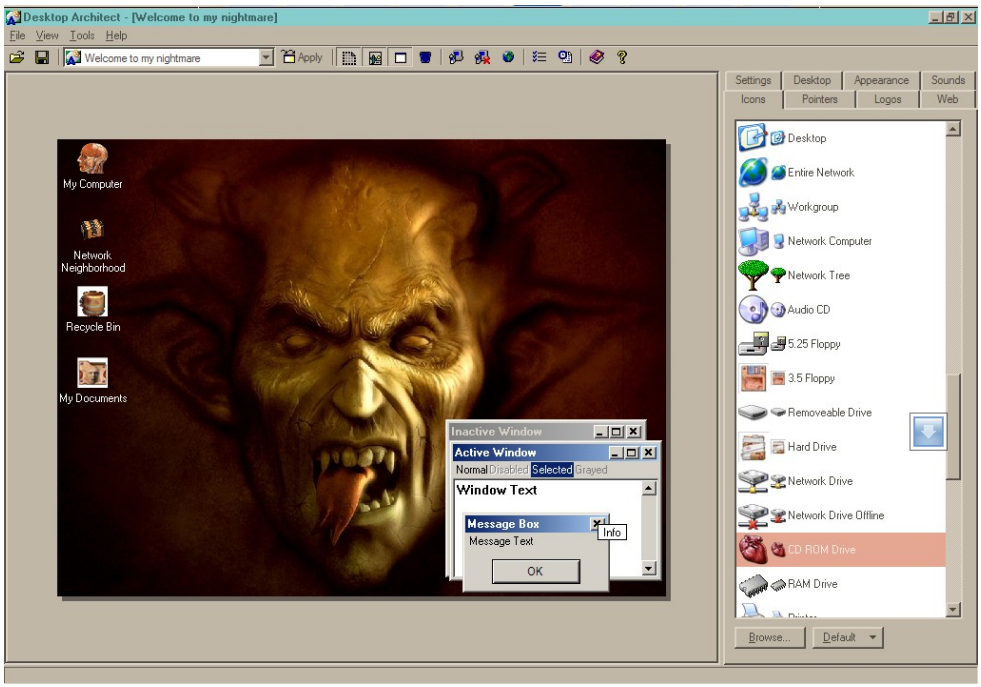


Go online and find you nice wallpaper for your theme. (Don’t forget your copyright information.) I’ll be doing a gothic theme with you so that you can see step by step.

Open Desktop Architect and click current setting and change to default. Click on Desktop tab and go to browse. Browse to your wallpaper and choose it. Now you screen looks like this:



Assuming you have your icons and cursors, (Don’t forget your copyright information) go to icons tab and click. Now going from top to bottom, double-click on the icon, now click browse, navigate to your folder and assign an icon, click ok and do the same thing. Now your screen should look like this:



Now go up to file and save as, your theme name.

Assignment 1

In this assignment you will take your My Themes Folder and send it as an attachment to my e-mail address: leslieproffitt2000@yahoo.com .

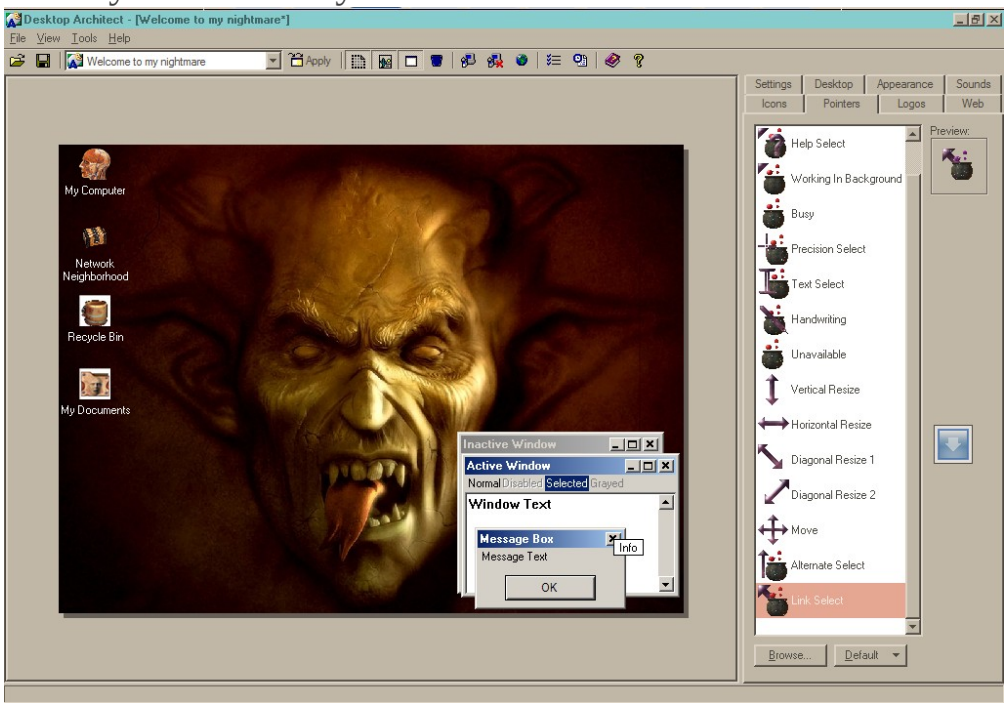
You must have in your folder: wallpaper, Icons, and copyright information.

week 2

Cursors and Wavs

Open Desktop Architect and open your theme.

Now let's put in your cursors. Click on the pointer tab and do the same thing you did with your icons. Start from the top and double-click on that pointer and browse to you cursor folder and assign a pointer, continue all the way down. Now your theme should look like this:



Now click the floppy disk to save your theme.

Note: If you want sounds, make a new folder in you My Themes folder called wavs. Go online and find what you want. Open up Desktop Architect, and then open your theme folder. Click on sounds tab and double-click on what you want sound to. We won't have sounds in this theme so don't worry about it.

Assignment 2

In this assignment you will take your My Themes Folder and send it as an attachment to my e-mail address: leslieproffitt2000@yahoo.com .

You must have in your folder: wallpaper, Icons, cursors, wavs (if you use them) and copyright information.

Lesson 3 with Assignment

Appearance and Finishing

Open your theme.

Below is a list on what you change in the appearance tab:

Here are the different Items listed and what they are:

• 3D Dark Shadow: The darker half (usually the bottom half) of all the frames around buttons and windows.

• 3D Face: This is the face of the buttons and also changes the colors of the symbols or words on the buttons.

• 3D Highlight: changes the lighter aspect of the frames

• 3D Light: Gives more definition to the Highlight

• 3D Objects: Does pretty much the same as 3D Face.

• 3D Shadow: Gives more definition to the Dark Shadow

• Active Title Bar: The title bar of the window you are currently using. You can change the front and end of the bar's colors. Change the text and text color. When you change the text of this it will also do the Inactive Title bar as well. These will always be the same. Changing the colors and fonts on here will also change the title of the message box.

• Active Window Border: Changes the size and color of the border around the Active Window

• Application Background: Honestly I have no idea on this on. If anyone figures it out, please let me know!

• Caption Buttons: Changes the size of the Close, Minimize and Maximize buttons

• Desktop: Very important. It changes the color of the active desktop. This is also important to change if you are using a stretched or titled wallpaper. Change this color to the main color in the theme, because it also will change the labels for the icons to the appropriate shade of black or white so they can be seen.

• Grayed Text: This will change the color of the Menu Bar (which is located directly under the Active Title Bar) and then the grayed text only on this bar.

• Hot Tracking: Again, I have no idea. Let me know if you figure this one out!

• Icon: This will change the size and style of the font used in the icon label.

• Icon Spacing: This will change the vertical or horizontal spacing of your icons. This is rarely used.

• Inactive Title Bar: Same as the Active Title Bar, only for the inactive title bar. If you change the font here you will also change the font on the Active Title bar.

• Inactive Window Border: See Active Window Border

• Menu: Here you can change the color of the menu bar and the Normal text, as well as the size and font used. All words on the Menu Bar will be the same text.

• Message Box: You can change the color of the main box and the font and size of font for the message.

• Palette Title: again no idea.

• Scrollbar: This will change the inside color for the scroll bar. It also can create narrow or wide scroll bars

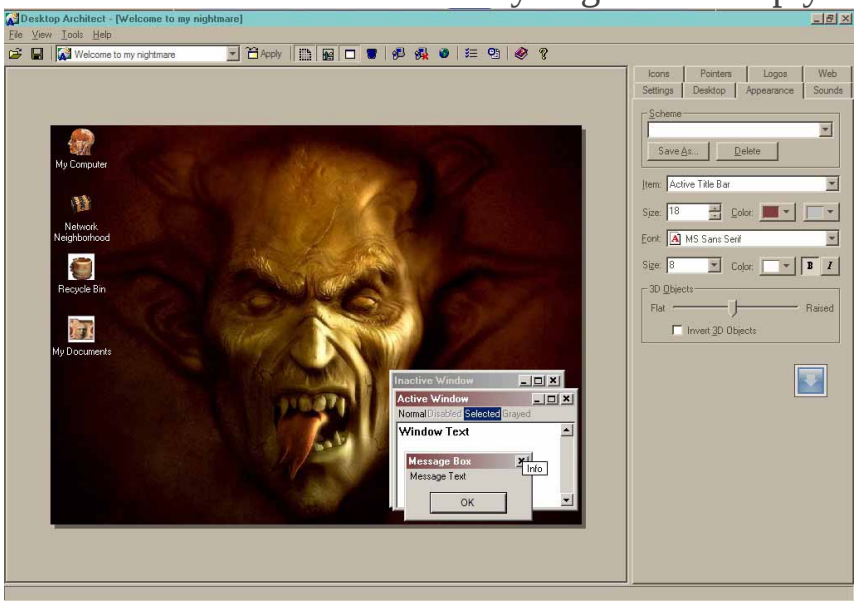
• Selected Items: This is on the Menu Bar. The colors here will change the color of the Highlight and the color of the font used. If you change the font

type here it will change it for the entire Menu bar. This also will effect for when you highlight things to cut and paste.

• Tool Tip: this will change the font, color and size of the tool tips.

- Window: This will change the color of the main window on your screens as well as the color of the font used. You cannot change the font type here.
- Window Frame: This changes the outline for all the frames used.

Here is what it looks like when you go and set up your settings:



Note: If you want to change your fonts, here is the place to do that. The one thing to remember is to go into your c: drive, go to your windows folder, and look for you fonts folder, then pick out the font you are using. Copy your font and paste into you're my Themes folder, that way when you package your theme your font will be included.

Finishing

Now we are going to package your theme. Open up Desktop Architect, and then open your theme folder. Click the button with a globe on it and follow the directions. This will create a self-installing theme that you can share with your friends and family.

Congratulations!

Congratulations! You have just created your first desktop theme. Don’t forget to keep up with your Copyright Information. Have fun!

Finales

In this assignment you will take your packaged theme and send it as an attachment to my e-mail address: leslieproffitt2000@yahoo.com .

You must have in your folder: wallpaper, Icons, wavs(if used), and copyright information.